

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  GTE NORTH INCORPORATED, CONTEL OF IOWA, INC. (d/b/a GTE IOWA), AND CONTEL SYSTEM OF IOWA (d/b/a GTE SYSTEMS OF IOWA) – IOWA INVESTMENT PLANS	DOCKET NO. INU-91-1
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**ORDER TERMINATING REPORTING REQUIREMENT  
AND CLOSING DOCKET**

(Issued April 23, 1999)

On February 20, 1991, in the "Order Approving Settlement Agreement" in Docket No. RPU-90-4, the Utilities Board (Board) stated its intention to initiate an investigation into the Iowa modernization plans of GTE North Incorporated (GTE). In that order, the Board noted GTE's inability to provide touch calling service to all of its customers without substantial expense and the unusually large numbers of Iowa customers apparently dissatisfied with GTE's service quality.

Accordingly, on May 17, 1991, the Board issued its "Order Initiating Investigation" in this docket, commencing a proceeding to evaluate GTE's Iowa modernization plans and the effects of past and future modernization on GTE's Iowa rates. Included in the order were seven information requests to GTE. A hearing was scheduled for August 21, 1991, to permit the Board and other interested persons to ask questions about GTE's responses.

After filing its responses to the Board's information requests, on August 16, 1991, GTE filed a comprehensive plan and schedule for the replacement of its remaining electromechanical switching offices in Iowa with digital technology switching offices. On August 19, 1991, the Board issued an order canceling the scheduled hearing until after the Board could review the new plan. In the same order, the Board expanded the docket to include an investigation of the modernization plans of GTE's affiliates, Contel of Iowa, Inc., d/b/a GTE Iowa, and Contel Systems of Iowa, d/b/a GTE Systems of Iowa.

On June 22, 1992, the Board issued its "Order Setting Filing Requirements," stating that the Board would monitor GTE's efforts to meet the commitments of its plan by requiring GTE to make certain filings. Specifically, GTE was required to file annual construction budgets for conversion of central offices to digital, for implementation of touch call service, and for elimination of 4-party service. GTE was also required to file an annual report of its construction costs for the prior year and a reconciliation of the actual costs to the budgeted costs.

GTE has been filing the required reports since that time. GTE completed implementation of touch call service and the elimination of 4-party service in 1994. On January 12, 1999, GTE reported to the Board that it had completed the conversion of 2-party service and filed tariff changes reflected in TF-98-281 to eliminate that service. Finally, on March 19, 1999, GTE submitted its annual budget comparison report, stating that GTE has completed the conversion to digital switching from analog switching for all of its Iowa exchanges. Twelve exchanges

were converted during 1998, bringing the total number of converted exchanges during the term of this docket to 142.

Based upon the reports filed by GTE, it appears GTE has completed the requirements set out in the Board's "Order Setting Filing Requirements" issued June 22, 1992. No further purpose would be served by requiring additional reports in this docket. The Board will terminate GTE's reporting requirement concerning the modernization plans filed in this docket and will close this docket.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. The reporting requirements established in the Board's "Order Setting Filing Requirements" issued in this docket on June 22, 1992, are terminated.
2. Docket No. INU-91-1 is closed.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Emmitt J. George, Jr.

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr.      /s/ Paula S. Dierenfeld  
Executive Secretary

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 1999.